27. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Bandwidth to S.T.P.I.

2357. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Information Technology has acceded to the demand of Software Technology Park of India to provide bandwidth to call centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures undertaken to provide bandwidth in remote areas of the country where V.S.N.L. is unable to access?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has been providing bandwidth to Call Centres for data only however voice applications on International Private Leased Circuits (IPLC) by STPI is not covered under existent licensing conditions.

(d) STPI has set up infrastructure facility at 35 locations spread throughout the country providing more than 150 Mbps of bandwidth to software exporters.

Dues of Postal Department to Indian Airlines

2358. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Posts and Telegraph Department owes crores of rupees to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the cargo that the airline has carried since 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for withholding the payment; and

(d) by when the arrears would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) The Indian Airlines carries domestic mails for the Department of Posts. Since the Indian Airlines frequently and unilaterally enhanced the rates for carriage of mail, the department referred the matter to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure for their intervention for fixing a reasonable rate to be paid to Indian Airlines by the Department. Meanwhile, the department continued to make payment to Indian Airlines at a provisional rate on the advice of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure. The Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure finally fixed the rate for payment to Indian Airlines from 1994-95 to 1999-2000 and advised the department in January 2002 to make payment of Rs. 24.90 crores to Indian Airlines. The department accordingly, paid the amount in two instalment of Rs. 20.00 crores and Rs. 4.90 crores in February and March, 2002 respectively. Thereafter the bills are being paid at provisional rate, pending finalisation of rates for the period 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 by Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure.

VSNL's Dues on American Companies

†2359. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of $30 million of VSNL is outstanding against a number of American companies;

(b) if not, the actual amount due till March, 2002;

(c) the names of American companies alongwith the amount due on these companies; and

(d) by when it is likely to be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN):(a) to (d) Sir, with the sale of 25% of Government's

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.